



# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City of Falls Church Converts to Biodiesel Fuel**



FALLS CHURCH, VA. – Beginning Monday, April 24, 2006 the City of Falls Church converted to biodiesel fuel for use in all City diesel vehicles and equipment. The conversion to biodiesel fuel was originally authorized by the City Council on Feb. 13, 2006.

By performing routine maintenance to clean and replace the filters used in the diesel engines of the City's current fleet and the City's fuel storage tanks, the City made a seamless conversion to biodiesel. Biodiesel fuel is now used in approximately 80 City vehicles, including school buses, fire trucks, refuse trucks, and other heavy-duty vehicles in the City's fleet.

Biodiesel fuel is a clean-burning alternative fuel produced from domestic, renewable sources. It improves upon the low-sulfur diesel fuel used for the past six years by the City's Department of Environmental Services, which was originally selected as a cleaner-burning alternative to conventional diesel fuel.

The City has a strong commitment to the preservation and renewal of natural resources and the environment, as reinforced in the City's 2005 Comprehensive Plan. Biodiesel is made from soy, canola, or recycled restaurant oils. Biodiesel fuel is simple to use, biodegradable, nontoxic, contributes no net carbon dioxide or sulfur to the atmosphere, and is low in particulate emissions.

The Council's authorization to purchase biodiesel fuel marks another step in the City's concerted effort to reduce pollution from its vehicle fleet and improve air quality from mobile source emissions. A comprehensive City "green fleet" policy will be finalized in the near future, and will include purchasing hybrid cars and flex fuel heavy-duty vehicles as current City vehicles are replaced.

The City is riding a state contract for the purchase of the biodiesel fuel, using the same pricing schedule that currently costs an average of only a few cents more per gallon than low-sulfur diesel fuel, but provides significant benefits for the environment.

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*Note: Photos attached of City of Falls Church Fleet Maintenance Supervisor Cliff Rector with City vehicle operating on biodiesel fuel. Photo Credit: Hyun June Lee.*